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ABSTRACT

Designed with junior high school students in mind, the activities in this booklet are offered as ways to stimulate interest in writing using as little as ten minutes of class time. The activities are arranged in six sections: (1) developing observation skills and paying attention to details: (2) word play, descriptive words, and word collections (outdoor words, lazy words, city words, soft words): (3) writing practice with puns, palindromes, idioms, and alliteration: (4) writing within standard poetry structures, such as cinquains, couplets, diamante, haiku, quatrain, senryu, sijo, and tanka: (5) working with "now" poetry, such as apologies, clerihews, epitaphs, haikon, limericks, and parody: and (6) word plays, such as answering riddles, using one word in many different contexts, personifying an object, writing invitations, and using colors to write common expressions. (RL)

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WHAT MAKES A 10 A 10

THEY MADE IT TO 10: YOU CAN, TOO

10

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might suggest a rating on female or male appeal,
or the number of fingers and toes,
or the highest a little child can count,
or a specific number of Indians,
or the time of the TV night news,
or the amount of time it takes to do fun writing.

Being a "10" isn't always easy, but it
is something to work towards.

HOW CLOSE TO A 10 CAN YOU GET?

There's no doubt about it, Bo Derek is a 10. But if being a 10 means getting the most from your potential, then you can be a 10—or close to it—too.

YOU CAN BE A "10"

10-Minute Writing Activities

Sharyn Markus

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A 10

CS206329

FOR A "10"

1. Have fun working through these 10-minute writing activities.
2. Keep your writing in a booklet or folder.
3. Submit your best and/or favorite writings for publication.

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10-Minute Writing Activities

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This activities packet was designed with junior-high students in mind; however, many of the activities can be used with high school students, as well. Many students today hate the process of writing; we, as teachers, need to reverse this, teaching that writing can be fun. A variety of sources should be used to stimulate interest in writing. Use this booklet as one source; use many others. See the bibliography for suggested sources. Students should also be writing for different audiences, besides the teacher and classmates. Encourage submitting writings for publications. Enter contests sponsored locally. Publish the writings in student magazines or newspapers.

Think about the following questions. See how quickly and accurately you can come up with the answers about these things you do and see every day.

1. On what side of the sink is the hot-water tap?
2. Are the buttons sewn on the left or right side of a shirt front?
3. Is the button side the same for men's shirts and for women's shirts?
4. Which arm do you put through your sleeve first?
5. Which leg do you start with when you put on your pants?
6. Which shoe do you put on first?
7. Which way do you turn the knob to open your classroom door?
8. On a traffic light, is the red at the top or at the bottom?
9. On your refrigerator door, does the door open from the left or from the right?
10. What color were your towel and washcloth this morning?
11. What color are your parents' eyes?
12. What color are the letters of the school building?
13. What is the address of the school?
14. What was a headline in yesterday's newspaper?
15. What did you wear to school yesterday?
16. What is the first thing you do upon awakening in the morning?
17. What did you have for dinner last night?
18. What time is your lunch hour?
19. How many students have lunch the same time you do?
20. When was the last time you ate a candy bar?

More Observation Skills

1. What color is the back wall of the room in which you're seated?
2. What color is the ceiling?
3. Are there any words or symbols written or carved on the desk you're using? Name one of them.
4. On the back of a dollar bill is a pyramid with a part of the human body at its top. Which part?
5. Does water moving down the drain of a kitchen sink turn clockwise or counterclockwise?
6. What color is the bottom bar in the American flag?
7. Two letters are omitted from the alphabet on a telephone dial. Which two?
8. How many panes of glass are there in the door to your English classroom?
9. If your teacher is a man, describe two shirts or ties he wears frequently. If a woman, describe two pieces of jewelry or shoes she wears frequently.
10. Does your teacher have a favorite outfit that he or she wears regularly? Describe it.

Observation Skills

1. Without turning around to look, write a missing-person's description of the student sitting behind you. Height? Weight? Color of hair? Color of eyes? Does he or she wear eyeglasses? What kind of clothing is this student wearing today? What colors? Any special features or identifying marks?
2. A television reporter wants to interview you on TV as a "typical" student on a "typical" school day. The reporter wants to know everything you did today, and everyone you saw or spoke to, since you arrived in school this morning. To prepare yourself, write down every single thing you've seen or done today until now.
3. You are the only witness to an automobile accident. Fortunately, no one is hurt, but both cars have been badly damaged. Write an accident report for the insurance company, telling exactly what happened. What time did the accident happen? Was the road wet or icy? Did the drivers obey the traffic signals? In which direction was each car traveling? What did each driver do? In what order did these things happen to them?

Sensory Details

Bring an apple to school with you tomorrow. Don't give it to the teacher. Look at it closely. Then answer all of the following questions.

1. What color is it? Is it only one color? What other colors, or specks of color, do you see?
2. What other things identify the look of this particular apple? Dark sports? Holes? Lines? Any bumps on it? What kind? How many?
3. What shape is the apple? Is it really round?
4. Feel the skin of the apple. What does it feel like?
5. Lift the apple in your hand. Try to guess how heavy it is. What else can you think of that feels as heavy or as light as the apple?
6. Smell the apple. Where is the smell strongest, at the stem or on the sides? What does it smell like?
7. Now, bite into it. What sounds do you hear as you sink your teeth into the apple? What sounds do you hear as you chew it?
8. What does the apple taste like? What does the taste remind you of?

Sensory Details

How would you answer the following questions? Write at least two words or phrases about each thing.

1. What does an old piece of bread taste like?
2. What does a sheet that's just come out of the laundry smell like?
3. What does a siren sound like when an ambulance is racing down the street?
4. What does a snowball feel like when you're shaping it in your hands?
5. What does a forkful of spaghetti look like as you bring it to your mouth?

Think of smells that you associate with specific experiences from your past. For example:

the chlorine smell of the swimming pool
the smell of new leather and glue in a shoe repair shop
the smell of hot tar when the streets are being repaved
the smell of a hospital

Write at least five of these smell experiences. Then write about one specific experience.

Have You Been Paying Attention

1. On which side does Johnny Carson part his hair?
2. In which hand does the Statue of Liberty hold her torch?
3. What shape is a stop sign?
4. Which way does Abe Lincoln face on a penny?
5. Which two letters do not appear on a telephone dial?
6. What's the highest number on an AM radio dial?
7. How many tines are on a standard dinner fork?
8. On which side of their uniforms do police officers wear their badges?
9. On a standard typewriter, over which number does the dollar sign appear?
10. Which way does a record turn on a phonograph - clockwise or counterclockwise?
11. Is page one of an English language book on the left or on the right?
12. If a common pencil isn't cylindrical, how many sides does it most likely have?
13. What is in the center of the flip side of a $1 bill?
14. How many geometric shapes in the CBS "eye" logo?
15. Does it say "Coke" or "Coca-Cola" on every can?
16. Which way do you flip a wall switch to turn it on?

Writing Descriptions

Before writing a description, make a list of the things you see, hear, smell, etc., as appropriate to your description.

1. Describe your best friend.
2. Describe a pet.
3. Describe yourself
4. Describe your favorite teacher.
5. Describe a favorite T. V. star
6. Describe your favorite cartoon character.
7. Describe a zoo animal.
8. Describe your home.
9. Describe something funny.
10. Describe a school dance.
11. Describe Elitch's.
12. Describe your dream car.
13. Describe a trip to the ocean.
14. Describe a trip to the mountains.
15. Describe a ball game.
16. Describe a day skiing.
17. Describe a favorite outfit.
18. Describe a sport your enjoy participating in.
19. Describe a person you dislike.
20. Describe spring flowers.

Loaded Words

Here is a list of some strong reaction words. Number 1 to 10 on a sheet of paper. Read the first word quickly. Next to Number 1, write down the very first thing that comes to your mind. Then do the same for words 2, 3, and so on. Do not look back. Do not change anything you write.

1. mother
2. school
3. fear
4. money
5. hate
6. time
7. loneliness
8. police
9. fire
10. friend

Answer each question below, and include as many details about what, why, and how as you can.

1. If you were an animal, what animal would you be?
2. If you were a season of the year, what season would you be?
3. If you were a famous person in history, what person would you be?
4. If you were a song, what song would you be?
5. If you were a bird, what bird would you be?
6. If you were a pair of shoes, what kind of shoes would you be?
7. If you were a plant, what kind of plant would you be?
8. If you were a flower, what kind of flower would you be?
9. If you were a piece of jewelry, what kind would you be?
10. If you were a piece of furniture, what kind would you be?
11. If you were food offered on a menu, what would you be?
12. If you were a color, what color and hue would you be?

Build a word collection for your classroom. Include a page of:

math words
science words
people words
loud words
outdoor words
wet words
public words
harsh words
bewitching words
lazy words
serious words
city words
soft words
grumpy words
odd words
private words

indoor words
dry words
convincing words
frivolous words
country words
gentle words
color words
busy words
tasting words
joyful words
silly words
hurried words
conceited words
sports words
TV words
animal words
recreation words

Puns

Baby teeth are drop-outs.

A nervous mosquito is a jitterbug.

Gravity will let you down.

A talking dog is smarter than a spelling bee.

Custer wore Arrow Shirts.

Radar cops study speed reading.

Now, it's your turn. Write your puns with magic markers, so that we can hang them on the clothesline.

Occupational Puns

My dentist bores me to tears.

By Gum, I hear you went to the dentist today.

Yes, it was quite a filling experience.

Did you meet the new hygienist, names Floss?

Definitely, I found her to be captivating.

Try to write a conversation full of occupational puns. Here's a start for you:

My mother says it's a drain on our budget to hire a plumber.

Be a Sport

You are to play with the names of the games and come up with punned descriptions of them. Here are some examples of punned sports statements. Look them over and see if you can catch the spirit of the game.

Baseball drives me batty, but I get a kick out of soccer.

Car racing is a drag and waterskiiing is a splash.

Bowling pins you down but sometimes there's time left to spare.

Sailing is a breeze and on the field it's a toss-up between the fristee and the volleyball.

Wrestling is gripping, and pole-vaulting gives me a lift.

Skating is a fall sport, but there's nothing like the high jump for spring.

Crackerjack

Someone who is really good is called a "crackerjack".

Crackerjack is a pun game. The object is to make up a sentence in which a double-meaning word occurs twice, once having one meaning, once having another meaning. Then write the sentence with the word left out, putting "crackerjack" in its place.

For example:

> After the man paid for all the dishes, he "crackerjack", he was completely "crackerjack."

The missing word is "broke". Here are more examples for you to figure out, before you write your own:

> After the "crackerjack" finished the baseball game, he drank a whole "crackerjack" of lemonade.
>
> Before the house painter put on another "crackerjack", he decided to take off his "crackerjack".
>
> They took the shortest "crackerjack" to the stadium so they'd be on time to "crackerjack" for the home team.
>
> Right after the wedding, the "crackerjack" had to "crackerjack" his favorite horse.

Palindromes

Collect words that read the same forwards as backwards:

pop mom noon pup level gag

dad radar tot refer rotor kayak

Phrases and sentences can be palindromes, too. Try some:

evil olive not a ton a toyota

wet stew too hot to hoot pop top

Was it a cat I saw? Madam, I'm Adam.

More Than You Ever Wanted to Know About Palindromes

By definition, a plaindrome is a word or sentence that reads the same backwards and forwards. From writer George Gipe, here's a list of palindromes:

radar
toot
pa's a sap
madam I'm Adam
I maim nine men in Miami.

One of the unwritten rules of the art is that a good palindrome should be meaningful rather than merely a succession of random, unconnected words. Some of them require a cover story:

> Otto was placed in charge of deflating a balloon during a theatrical production. Because it was imperative to perform the act strictly on cue, Otto was sent this reminder: EMIT NO GAS, OTTO: GOT TO SAG ON TIME.

Though the palindrome dates back to the third century B. C., the first good effort in the English language was this 17th century confession by poet John Taylor:

LEWD DID I LIVE & EVIL I DID DWEL .

And the first palindrome to top that is attributed to Napoleon:

ABLE WAS I ERE I SAW ELBA.

Leigh Mercer of London composed these:

A MAN, A PLAN, A CANAL - PANAMA
SUMS ARE NOT SET AS A TEST ON ERASMUS.
STRAW? No, TOO STUPID A FAD. I PUT SOOT ON WARTS.

J. A. Lindon of Addlestone, Surrey, composed these:

MAN, EVE LET AN IRATE TAR IN AT ELEVEN A. M.

Dmitri Borgmann of Games magazine composed these:

MARGE LETS NORAH SEE SHARON'S TELEGRAM

A palindrome contest in London's "New Statesman" (May 5, 1967) brought this prizewinner:

DOC NOTE, I DISSENT. A FAST NEVER PREVENTS A
FATNESS. I DIET ON COD.

Palindromes are not limited to English. Here is one in Italian:

EBRO E OTEL, MA AMLETO E ORBE.
(Othello is drunk, but Hamlet is blind).

Here is a 21-word palindrome by Scottish poet Alastair Reid:

T. ELIOT, TOP BARD, NOTES PUTRID TANG
AMANATING, IS SAD. I'D ASSIGN IT A
NAME: GNAT*DIRT UPSET ON DRAB POT TOILET.

The record for the world's longest palindrome is by Jeff Grant of Hastings, New Zealand - it contains 10,230 words.

Palindromes

See if you can complete the little rhymes below with a palindrome (a word that is spelled the same frontwards and backwards).

1. A comic calls his jokes his bag; each separate joke he calls a _____.
2. The top I'll sand; the edge I'll bevel; I'll make that board smooth and _____.
3. An ancient king, kind of a nut, is often called Old King _____.
4. Word has travelled near and far, your speed is being checked by _____.
5. Just before Christmas I think I'll leave, that will be on Christmas _____.
6. Handsome Robert, he's my heart-throb. If you'd rather, just call him _____.

Now, you will be given the palindrome and you are to write the sentences. Then have someone else complete your sentences.

peep ewe deed toot bib mum pup eye Hannah
tot reviver

Idioms Drive Me Crazy

Start a list of idioms, such as:

I'm tickled pink.

She has a frog in her throat.

We had the minister for lunch.

If you break that, I'll crown you.

I'll knock your head off.

P-p-poetry is poetry that uses alliteration. But alliterated words are just the beginning. After the words are chosen, they must be arranged in a shape that shomehow relates to the letter they all begin with or the meaning of the words themselves.

Teenagers

Talkative, Talented,
Tenacious, Tough
Trustworthy
Tempetuous
Tipsy
Trained
Thinkers
Tragic
Truly
Terrific

Alliteration Stories

An alliteration story is built around one letter of the alphabet. Writers of Sesame Street books use this technique to reinforce a letter of the alphabet for younger children. You are doing it, of course, just for fun. Here's an example:

> Albert and Alice ate all the apples at Aunt Amanda's. After they are all the apples, Alice and Albert asked Aunt Amanda for apricots and animal crackers and ate all of them also. "Amazing!" cried Aunt Amanda. "Albert and Alice have awfully big appetites. All my apples and apricots and animal crackers are gone." After awhile, Alice and Albert went away. "At last!" said Aunt Amanda.

Variation: Write sentences that contain 2- or 3-word alliterative combinations using as many different letters as possible, rather than using words that begin with the same letter:

> Arnold asked Amy if she would bring brown bags to carry candy canes to Patrick's parents' party.

Cinquains

A cinquain (sin-KANES) has five lines. The first line has two syllables; the second has four; the third, six ;the fourth, eight; and the last, two. The pattern, then is 2-4-6-8-2. Here are some examples:

Exam Time
Ballpoints,
Scratching, scrawling,
In fidgety fingers
Under hunched shoulders . . . graceless blobs
Of thought.

A kiss
From a snowflake
Fell upon my pale cheek
Any my heart has gone, where snowflakes
Come from.

This day,
Since it exits,
Should not be confused with
Tomorrow - - for it is but a
Vision.

I care.
I understand.
I long to be wanted.
I cry, I laugh - I am very
Human.

Couplets

For some reason almost impossible to explain, hats are funny! And therefore, hats, both general and specific, are natural topics for couplets. A couplet is two lines of verse that rhyme.

Try it first with just any old hat:

If you object to normal hats,
Wear pancakes, bowls, or tumbling mats.

And then try it with a special hat:

This is the story of poor old Herbie
Who went to Kentucky and lost his Derby.

And now try it with a hat phrase:

To pass around the hat, it's said,
Will warm your heart - and cool your head.

Some types of hats for you:

baseball cap	beret	turban	knitted cap	ski cap
sombrero	cowboy hat	Stetson	motorcycle helmet	top hat
picture hat	pillbox	veil	hard hat	bonnet

Hat phrases:

take one's hat off to	hat in hand	under one's hat	
place one's hat on a seat	talk through one's hat	old hat	
throw one's hat into the ring	pass the hat around	eat one's hat	

Diamante

Diamante is a form of poetry shaped like a diamond. It has seven lines which do not have to rhyme, but which do have a definite word pattern.

Noun
(Subject, Title)

Adjective Adjective
(Describes subject, title)

Participle Participle Participle
(Relating to subject usually ending in - ing)

Noun Noun Noun Noun
(Relating to subject, but showing change to line 6 - noun - transition)

Participle Participle Participle
(Relating to line 6 noun usually ending in - ing)

Adjective Adjective
(Describes line 6)

Noun
(Opposite of subject)

Example: (author unknown)

Child
Young, energetic
Playing, laughing, tumbling
Growth, change, knowledge, development
Working, achieving, succeeding
Older, wiser
Adult

Your own diamante:

_____ (one word)

_____ _____ (two words)

_____ _____ _____ (three words)

_____ _____ _____ _____ (four words)

_____ _____ _____ (three words)

_____ _____ (two words)

_____ (one word)

Haiku

Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry. It is written in three lines with a five-seven-five syllable count. The purpose of Haiku is to present a single thought or observation related to nature.

Example: The blue skies brighten
The day of robins return
Spring is here at last.

Write your own Haiku.

Quatrain

You know how to write a couplet, two lines of verse that rhyme. A quatrain is a four-line poem, with all four lines rhyming or only the second and the fourth lines rhyming. Here are two done for you about beds.

Whenever I arise from bed,
I wind a turban round my head.
And then when everyone has fled,
I eat a pickle and brown bread.

Last night I slept in a hammock,
A most unlikely bed.
Whenever I breathed, or dreamed, or blinked,
I landed on my head.

Senryu

Senryu is a kind of Japanese poetry not limited to nature topics. It may be on any single idea you wish to express. It does follow the same pattern as the Haiku, five-seven-five. Line one is five syllables, line two is seven syllables, and line three is five syllables. We have started the first lines for you.

1. Come home little girl

2. Shoot for the basket

3. Alone is a word

4. Whisper in my ear

Now, try one completely on your own.

Sijo

Sijo is an interesting form of Korean poetry. The formula is: six lines of poetry, six or seven, or eight syllables in each line. Try to write one; the topic is not limited.

Tanka

Tanka is another form of Japanese poetry. The basic Tanka form contains five lines which have a total of 31 syllables with a 5-7-5-7-7 division. Like Haiku, Tanka subjects are about nature and the seasons of the year. An example:

Where is the white snow?
It is time for it I know.
I go on looking.
On the hill, over the brook
But the snow is hiding still.

Try to write your own tanka.

Alphabet Soup

For each letter of the alphabet, try to write a word that fits into a particular category you've chosen.

Words That Describe Children

Adventuresome	Noisy
Busy	Obedient
Curious	Polite
Delightful	Quick
Eager	Rambunctious
Frivolous	Sneaky
Generous	Tireless
Horrible	Useful
Ingenious	Vocal
Joyful	Wonderful
Kind	X-tra Special
Lovable	Young
Mischievous	Zesty

Now you come out with a category, such as animals, words to describe yourself or a friend.

Joan Walsh Anglund popularized ABC Poetry, making the letters of the alphabet, in order, comprise a sentence. She started out with, "Always be . . ." Finish it.

Apologies

Have you ever apologized for something for which you weren't really sorry? Write a poem or note that gives an apology for something you've done. Here are two samples for you:

APOLOGIES

This is Just To Say

I have eaten
the plums

that were in
the icebox

and which
you were probably
saving
for breakfast

Forgive me
they were delicious
so sweet
and so cold.

William Carlos Williams

I told a lie about you
today
Well, actually it was
just
a fib

a little white lie
I guess you could say

It didn't do much
good
for you - but
it made me feel
important

at least
for a few
minutes.

Clerihews

A clerihew is a poem using a person's name. The rhyme pattern is very simple: the first two lines rhyme and the last two lines rhyme, for an a/a/b/b pattern. Here are samples for you:

Cheryl Ladd
Turns on my Dad.
But my mom turns green
When she's on the screen.

Donny and Marie
Are all right by me.
They are nice and simple.
And she has a dimple.

Now, it is your turn. Try one with your own name, a friend's name, your teacher's, a star's, or even your pet's name.

P. S. The founder of this type of poetry is Edmund Clerihew Bentley.

33

Epitaphs

Epitaphs are tombstone writings. These can be serious or silly. Here are silly ones:

Here lies Maryanne Doe
She tripped on a toothpick
And broke her toe.

At rest here is John Bloom
Our neighbor of late.
He brushed with Crest
But should've used Colgate.

Write epitaphs for a famous person, a friend, your teacher, and yourself.

Sidenote: Look at the epitaphs on the old tombstones the next time you visit Cripple Creek.

Variations:

Some epitaphs are meant to be jokes. During the last century, in many parts of thecountry, it wasn't at all unusual for people to want a bit of humor on their tombstones. Here are some examples:

a waiter: God caught my eye.

a dentist: Now filling my last cavity

a gambler: I played my five aces
Now I'm playing a harp.

a politician: Lying still

LIFE AND DEATH TWO DIFFERENT LESSONS GIVE
LIFE TEACHES US HOW TO LIVE

TIME'S UP

I'M DOWN

BUT I SMILE

AND YOU FROWN.

Good News/Bad News

There are several variations to this writing activity. Students can write both the good news and the bad news, or you can give them one half of it and have them write the other half. One student can write the good news and another student can finish it with the bad news.

E. g.

The good news is that you've won a free vacation in a contest.
The bad news is that the vacation is to Colorado Springs.

The good news is that school will be out for the summer.
The bad news is that I have to go to summer school.

Gruks

The origin of the gruk is in Denmark - a Danish poet-scientist named Piet Hein (pronounced Pete Hine). When his country was occupied by German troops during World War II, Piet Hein went underground to lead an anti-Nazi struggle. He began writing defiant verses that seemed simple on the surface, but hidden meanings. German soldiers didn't understand, but Danes did. Grooks have no set form; most of them rhyme, but not always in the same pattern. The main thing is to make a short, often humorous comment about life. The Danish spelling is "gruk"; the American, Grook.

Examples:

The Road to Wisdom

The road to wisdom? - well, it's plain
and simple to express:

Err
and err
and err again
but less
and less
and less.

— Piet Hein

Brave

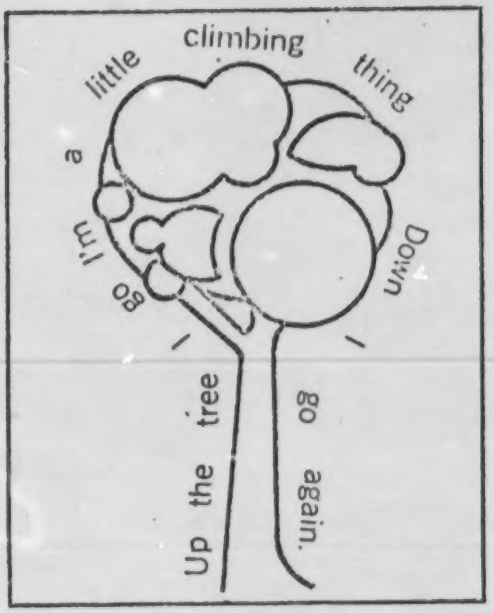
To be brave is to behave
bravely when your heart is faint.
So you can be really brave
only when you really ain't.

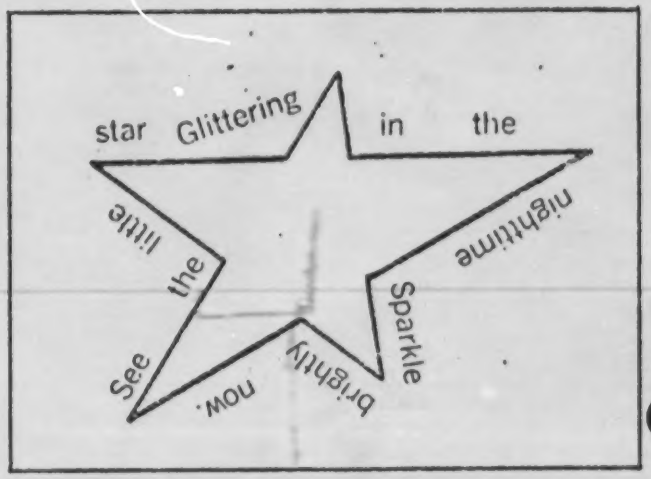
— Piet Hein

It's your turn to write gruks.

Haikon

Haikon is a Haiku written around a picture which describes your poem.





Your own Haikon:

Your own Haikon:

Hink Pinks

Hink Pinks are riddles that have two-word rhyming answers, for example,

What does a rodent wear on its head?
A rat hat.

What do you call a male deer trapped in quicksand?
A stuck buck.

What do you call a light-colored garden pest?
A pale snail.

Hinky Pinkies are riddles that need rhyming answers with two syllables:

What do you call a really good film?
A groovy movie.

What do you call it when cows fight?
A cattle battle.

What do you call it when the joke is over?
After laughter.

Hinkety Pinketies are riddles that have rhyming answers with three syllables:

What do you do when you think about last Christmas?
Remember December.

What will it take to clean up the air?
Pollution Solution.

What do you call a melon that a swift, long-horned mammal eats?
Antelope cantaloupe.

Now, it is your turn to write hink pinks, hinky pinkies, and hinkety pinketies,

Animal Limericks

Limericks are just as much fun to write as they are to read and easy, too. There are five lines in each poem. Lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyme with each other. Lines 3 and 4 rhyme with each other.

Examples:

Oh, my, said the Thanksgiving turkey
Whose walk was a little bit jerky
If I were just thinner
I wouldn't be dinner
Somehow I don't feel so perky.

There once was a puppy named Dog
Who acted a lot like a _____ (you fill it in)
He ate all in sight,
Was no longer _____ (fill it in)
And wondered why he couldn't _____. (fill it in)

Now, you try an animal limerick, about any animal that appeals to you.

Name Poems

Begin by writing the letters of your name vertically. Then write a name poem. Here are some examples:

Diane is a girl
In San Fernanco High
And she has been there
Now for three years.
Eventually she will graduate.

Robyn wants to be an
Olive
Because they taste good with
Yogurt and
Nectarines.

Someday during my life -
Time I should
Enter the
Visual thoughts that
Every mind
Needs to explore.

Richard
Is a real
Classy name — but to be
Honest, I must
Admit that I
Really prefer my nickname
Dick.

Sean is a dedicated
Environmentalist, with his concern and
Anguish over the welfare and
Nurturing of the natural environment.

Odes

Listen to the record, "Ode To Billy Joe".

Write an ode to . . .

a cocoon

peanut butter

the pencil sharpener

a super mother

your old sneaker

curly hair

straight hair

a toothbrush

your old teddy bear

the end of summer

your childhood

an old riding toy

a favorite pair of blue jeans

Parody

A parody is an exaggerated imitation of a literary style. It may make fun of a writing style or it may make fun of something else. Try it with a nursery rhyme and an All-American favorite, bubblegum.

Start with a nursery rhyme, such as:

Jack and Jill went up the hill
To fetch a pail of water.
Jack fell down and broke his crown
And Jill came tumbling after.

Keep the rhythmn and some of the verses. Then add some verses of your own, using bubblegum. Like this —

Jack and Jill went up the hill
To fetch a wad of gum.
The bubble broke and they were soaked
In glue from crown to thumb.

Some possibilities for your consideration are: Hey Diddle Diddle; Humpty Dumpty; Little Boy Blue; Little Bo-Peep; One, Two-Buckle Your Shoe; Little Jack Horner; There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe.

Phoetry

Phoetry is a combination of peetry and photography. Take and bring in snapshots of anything that interests you. Then write poetry to describe actions, impressions, feelings, or places represented in the pictures.

Translations

Find a poem that's written in a foreign language. "Translate" it by writing what you think the poem says.

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Sneaky Poetry

It is called "sneaky" because the poet doesn't reveal the subject until the very last line. He makes others guess what it is through four lines of related words and phrases. Here's the pattern that lets you drop the clues:

first line - a noun
second line - an adjective and a noun
third line - two verbs
fourth line - a thought, phrase, or sentence
fifth line - the subject

Diamond
Excited crowd
Hitting and missing
Pop fly to right field
Baseball.

Stripes
Pastel semicircle
Glowing and coloring
Where's the pot of gold?
Rainbow.

Here are some sneaky poems with the last line (subject) left out. Guess them, then write your own sneaky poetry.

Machine
Loud revs
Zooms and roars
Looks a little "Evel"

_____

Circle
Orange wheel
Steaming and sizzling
Plain or combination?

_____

Sound Poetry

From the sound of it, it's poetry. The shriek of an ambulance. The thud of a dropped sneaker. These are sounds but they are also the beginning of sound poems. You write a sound down vertically. Then you make up one long sentence or several short sentences or even a single thought, using the letters in the sound to begin each line.

P uppies lying tiredly
A fter a long
N ight run in
T he big meadow.

C hurch bells
H anging in the steeple
I nforming the women and
M en that the service has
E nded.

G rouchy people
R oaring about the
U nnecessary amount of
M oney they have to spend
B ecause of this
L ousy
E conomy.

Terse Verse

To play this word game, think up two rhyming words that, when put together, make a command or statement. Then invent a long title. Examples are given before it is your turn.

What the veterinarian told his long-necked patient to do to get out of its deep depression:

LAUGH,
GIRAFFE.

What the grouchy old sea captain
said to the bratty boy on the
burning deck:

"LEAP,
CREEP."

What thesaddlebum trying to
sleep behind the OK Corral
said to Mr. Earp and his
friends when the shooting
started:

"Quiet,
Wyatt."

What the penicillin said to the
virus as it was being injected:

"Squirm,
Germ."

Tom Swifties

More than fifty years ago, Edward L. Stratemeyer wrote a set of children's books that starred a hero bigger and better than life - Tom Swift. Courageous and true, Tom circled the world fighting underwater pirates and other monstrous enemies. And Tom always won out over the bad guys. It wasn't good enough for Tom just to do something. He had to do things either thoughtfully, grandly, fearlessly, excitedly, or so on.

A grown-up fan of Tom Swift got the idea for a new word game called "Tom Swifties". He matched an adverb to an action. Examples:

"What time is it?" he asked watchfully.
"Those pigs are noisy," he said gruntingly.
"Accidents are bound to happen," Captain Hook said offhandedly.
"Those weiners are good," he added frankly.
"Don't cut yourself," she warned sharply.
"The record is stuck," she said repeatedly.
"Have you seen the new swimsuits?" she barely whispered.
"You made an F on your paper," the teacher said degradingly.
"I couldn't dig up the coffin," he said gravely.

Got the idea? Good. "Now why not go ahead and really try to see if you can think up, create, invent, or even compose some Tom Swifties of your own," the writer said wordily.

Triangular Triplets

A triplet is a poem where all three lines rhyme. Triangular triplets can be read starting from any point in the triangle.

Example: I looked to see what I could see
As I sat on a hill under a tree
Hugging my sweater close to me.

Read the triplet three ways starting at a different point for each version.

Write your own triplets and arrange them around the three sides of triangles.

Borrow some old house descriptions from a realtor or bring in copies of the real estate newspaper/newsletter that is distributed locally. Read over the descriptions. Write up descriptions of some houses for your own neighborhood. Maybe do a new housing area. Or write the descriptions for the houses to be included in the Parade of Homes that year.

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Make a list of 10 things . . .

to do last

to do first

never to do

I don't understand

that should be changed

to keep secret

to do before breakfast

I'll never forget

I'd like to forget

about my city

about teeth

never to tell your mother

to do slowly

to do in a hurry

you should try

to say to a gorilla

to tell your teacher if you didn't do your homework

that make you mad

that make you happy

that you like to eat

that you don't like to eat

that you think are pretty

to which you would say "yes"

to which you would say "no"

Find a record album cover that is visually interesting. Do not select an album that features a large phtograph of the artist. Write a description of the cover so that someone who has not seen it will have a fair idea of what it looks like. Be careful not to mention the name of the album or the performer in your description. Bring both the written description and the album cover to class (leave the album itself at home). Arrange the covers along the chalk tray. Have pepple read their descriptions and guess which album cover is being described.

Connection

Start with a phrase or compound word or expression. Add new ones off of the last word.

Milk shake
shake down
downtown
township
shipwreck
wreck

Ice cream
cream mate
mating game
game board
board walk
walk-a-thon

Ice cream
cream 'n sugar
sugar bowl
bowling pins
pin ups
uptown
township
shipshape
shape up
upward
ward in hospital
hospital bed
bedroom
roommate
mating call
call of the wild
wildcard
card tricks
trick or treat
treat

banana split
split up
uptown
town hall
hall tree
tree house
house pet
pet city
city hall
hallway
way to go
go away
away we go
going, going, gone
gone mad
mad, mad, world
world traveler

Dairy Queen
queen for the day
daytime
time management
management by objectives
objective

Dilly bar
bar association
associated press
press time
time for dinner
dinner

The subject doesn't have to be food, however, students seem to always have food on their minds!

Associative Thinking

Associative Thinking is the ability to see relationships between apparently unrelated objects and ideas. This kind of thinking can be developed through practice. Below are groups of four apparently unrelated words, yet each group has something in common. See if you can think of what it is they have in common. There may well be more than one possible answer for each group. Write your answers on the blank lines. Example: Water, shaker, pepper, sweat = salt; the common factor is salt: salt water, salt shaker, salt and pepper, and sweat is salty.

1.	Round	foot	throw	dance
2.	sail	speed	tug	row
3.	room	bird	shower	bubble
4.	water	cleaning	jump	fall
5.	watch	grandfather	cuckoo	alarm
6.	man	storm	ball	flake
7.	pattern	rehearsal	wedding	shop
8.	show	race	saw	dark
9.	concert	wall	stone	cradle
10.	man	wonder	mother	lady
11.	ware	gold	coin	quick
12.	beach	storm	quick	paper
13.	split	peel	yellow	creme pie
14.	grass	red	light	shamrock
15.	cigar	fire	gun	signals
16.	inch	ball	athlete's	shoe
17.	stained	wine	plate	drinking
18.	color	fruit	juice	tree
19.	table	linen	silk	weave
20.	fall	stream	snow	fountain

FAMOUS AUTHORS

Here's a list of books that were never written, but should have been:

Keeping the Furniture Clean by Dustin Hoffman
My Life in Baseball, by Neil Diamond
The World's Great Beaches, by Dinah Shore
Between Spring and Autumn, by Suzanne Somers
It Makes Cents, by Penny Marshall
It Makes More Cents, by Kristy McNichols
It Makes Even More Cents, by Buck Henry
A History of Aspirin, by Thomas Paine
The First Sign of Spring, by Robin Williams

The general idea is to start with a person's name - can be a famous person, a person from history, a classmate, a teacher - and then create a book title to go along with it.

Business Messages

You are to play with words to answer the questions, How's business? Here are several examples for you:

1. "My business is just sew, sew," said the tailor.
2. "It's going up in smoke," said the cigar manufacturer.
3. "Business is looking up," said the astronomer.
4. "Business is booming," said the dynamite dealer.
5. "We're riding high," said the jet pilot.
6. "My business is growing all the time," said the farmer.
7. "Mine is picking up," said the street cleaner.
8. "Things don't look bright," said the window shade manufacturer.
9. "We've been cleaning up," said the laundry owner.
10. "It's a record year," said the disc jockey.

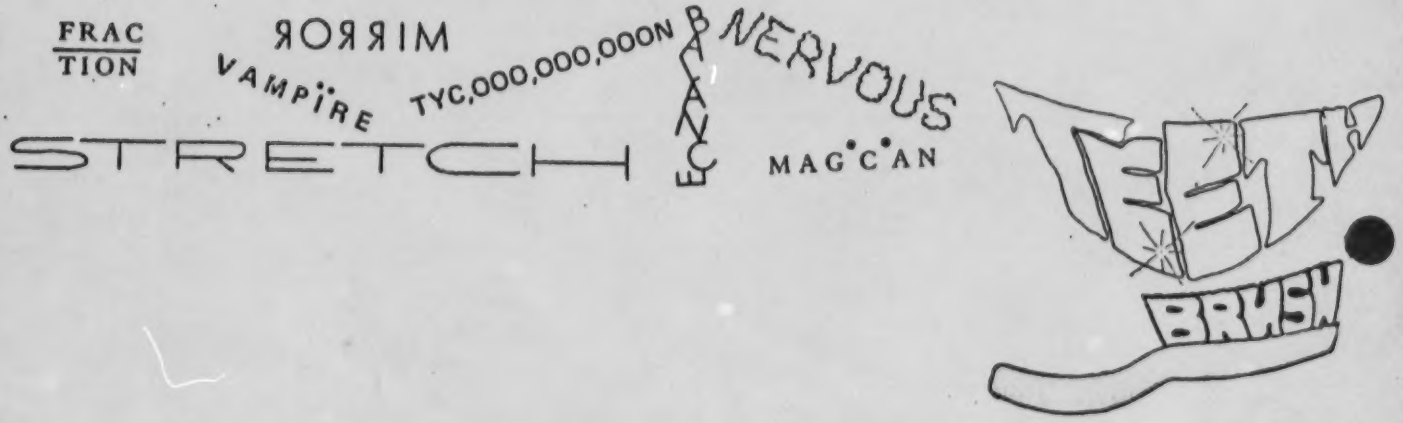
Bits of Wisdom

At the end of a school year, write a short note of comment or advice to each person in your class, telling that person something important or helpful for him to know or to remember as he goes on in life.

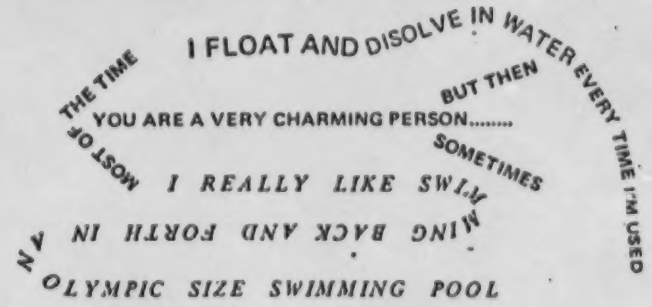
Calisthenics

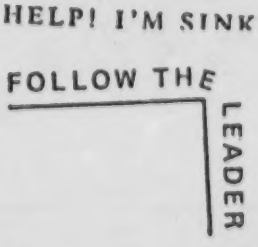
Calisthenics usually begin with the simplest exercises and become more rigorous. So will these word calisthenics.

1. Begin by writing words so that they appear like what they mean. Then you try some. Some examples are done for you.



2. For a more demanding exercise, write three sentences that are written in such a way as to physically appear as they mean. For example:


I FLOAT AND DISOLVE IN WATER EVERY TIME I'M USED
BUT THEN
YOU ARE A VERY CHARMING PERSON.....
SOMETIMES
MOST OF THE TIME
I REALLY LIKE SWIMMING BACK AND FORTH IN AN OLYMPIC SIZE SWIMMING POOL



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Captions

Collect cartoons and interesting pictures. Cut off the writing that's under the pictures. Trade cartoons with friends and write new captions for them.

Categories

Have students make up categories sheets from the one you have put on the Board. Across the top, you list five categories, for whatever area you are studying or just for fun. Down the left side, give letters of the alphabet. (I've used this for parts of speech, proper nouns, literary characters, etc.)

	Flowers	Mountains	Indian Tribes	States	Colors
L					
A					
M					
P					
S					

CDB

The concept of CDB is to use only the names of the letters and treating them as the actual sounds represented. "CDB" actually decodes as "see the bee".

D C - L S N D C

This decodes as "The seal is in the sea."

If available, distribute copies of CDB! or put samples of the board. Go through several examples. Then have students make up their own stories using this symbol system.

Try to decode these first:

1. D N-M-L S A B-U-T
2. Y S E 1-N O-A?
3. I F A M-R
4. I 8 D C-T
5. D C-T S 2 B-Z
6. R U O-L
   S I M
7. D E-L S N D C

Cliff Hangers

Hang a long piece of paper
from a hanger. On the
paper, write the
beginning of an
exciting story.
Don't finish the
story.
Stop right at a
breathtaking spot.
Then hang your
story in a place
where someone else
can finish it.
You finish another
person's cliff-hanger.

Connotations

Use the words in as many different contexts as you can think of.

1. cat
2. chicken
3. pig
4. goose
5. rags
6. bear
7. juice
8. run
9. nail
10. doll
11. fox
12. blue
13. beast
14. pink
15. gas
17. horse
18. fly

Cop Shop

Many people are fascinated with police paraphernalia. Television has glamorized police work so much that most everyone has some idea of the tools of this trade. This activity provides an opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at the realities of police equipment. Gather a supply of different police equipment catalogs from your local police department. Provide students with a scenario, such as updating the look of the department, having recently hired ten new police officers, a fire which destroyed everything. Students are to order what supplies would be needed.

Crazy Combinations

Write a poem that has in every line . . .

the name of an animal and a kitchen utensil, or

= a color and a fruit, or

a body part and a famous person, or

a power source and a dance, or

any other crazy combination.

Crazy Combinations

Try to come up with creative answers to the following riddles.

1. How is a laugh like a bowling ball?
2. How is a cloud like a watermelon?
3. How is a picture like a stomach ache?
4. How is anger like a floor?
5. How is music like a bed?
6. How is a giraffe like Sunday afternoon?
7. How is 5 o'clock like a shovel?
8. How is a table like a dream?
9. How is tomorrow like a piano?
10. How is breathing like a pencil?
11. How is school like spaghetti?
12. How is a harmonica like November?
13. How is a basket like a fire?
14. How is blood like a song?
15. How is a tree like a wish?
16. How is being scared like a wheel?
17. How is skin like a lie?
18. How is a street like the sun?
19. How is plastic like a sneeze?
20. How is an eraser like California?
21. How is a mountain like a nap?
22. How is a word like a ladybug?
23. How is a joke like a towel?
24. How is an idea like a necklace?
25. How is water like a memory?

Variation: Students ask the questions and other students answer them.

Complaint Department

Pretend that you are in charge of the complaint department at a grocery store or ice cream parlor or a kite shop or a bicycle repair shop — or any other store. Write a list of the possible complaints you might receive. For each one have ready a possible answer or explanation.

Giving Directions

Write the directions for how to:

make the sun shine

eat with chopsticks

find the washroom

get bubblegum out of your hair

brush your teeth

make a rainbow

pet a lion

pet a rattlesnake

get peanut butter off the roof of your mouth

Forever Yours

I'm yours till . . .

You complete the senteces with such expressions as:

Yours till the Butter Flies

Yours till Niagra Falls

Yours till the door stops

Yours till the ocean waves

Yours till the mail boxes

Yours till the key rings

Found poetry

A found poem is one that says something about yourself, using the clip-and-paste method from magazines, newspapers, phone books, - any source of print materials that you are allowed to cut up. How about old catalogs?

Variation:

Paste these onto a paper place -- and you have your name plate.

Another hint:

Repeat these in the spring, to see how the name plate has changed.

For anyone who doesn't feel like writing, here's a great way to write without writing. Create poems, phrases, fables, sentences, words, announcements, letters, warnings, notes, questions, stories, secrets, or whatever you feel like saying by cutting the words and letters out of magazines or newspapers.

Color My World

Use colors to write common expressions.

Some examples are:

green with envy
tickled pink
feeling blue
Green Beret
Irish green
purple passion
pink is for sissies
pink is for girls
blue is for boys
orange crush
orange juice
black mood
black magic
white magic
pink eye
rosy complexion
brown sugar

black velvet
blackball
black sheep
blackmail
good guys wear white hats
bad guys wear black hats
colors of the rainbow
my coloringbook
to get a tan
red roses for a blue lady
my brown eyes blue
silver lining
turning colors (blush)
Blondie
Blondie and Dagwood

Variation:

Use a mood ring to lead into this and can get into discussions and writings.

With the price of gold . . .

This is a variation of the "Color My World" writing activity. This time use only the color gold, to come up with common expressions.

Examples:

fools gold

gold mining

Cripple Creek gold

good as gold

heart of gold

Goldilocks

Golden Gate Bridge

goldenrod

Goldie Hawn

golden opportunity

Golden Gloves

golden retriever

marigold

golden rule

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Grocery Lists

Many people write grocery lists. You are going to have the opportunity to write shopping lists for famous people, cartoon characters. Here are some done for you. Whose grocery lists are they?

100 gallons blood
4 yards black silk
one tooth file
two tubes white make-up

three cases spinach
one pipe
one sailor's uniform

one hatchet
one powdered wig
one set wooden teeth

seven picks
seven lanterns
one bottle poison apple antidote

Horoscopes

Write horoscopes for yourself and for your friends. You can make them silly or serious.

Variation:

During October, you want to make them scary and "horrorscopes".

What if . . .?

Some people think that "what if . . ." and "If only . . ." are two of the most dangerous expressions in our language. Let's see what you can do with the "if's".

Some examples:

if clocks hands were wings, would time really fly?

if teachers were dynamite, school would be a blast.

If there weren't any pencil sharpeners, no one would get the point.

If a banana had a brain, it would have a split personality.

If homework were pizza, I'd eat my own words.

If clouds could speak, they'd talk up a storm.

If I had a calculator, my problems would all add up.

If bars of soap were robbers, they'd make a clean get away.

Home remedies

Write remedies for common diseases, illnesses, minor accidents. The cures should be ridiculous. You might want to consider some of these:

how to get rid of freckles

what to do for a broken heart

how to live with a big nose

how to cure a sore throat

how to cure a stuffy head

how to get rid of pinkeye

how to get rid of a pest

what to do for a broken fingernail

what to do for a hangnail

what to do for a black eye

Metamorphosis

Have you ever wondered what someone would be like if he or she were anything other than a person? Let your imagination bend. Here are some thoughts to get your mind working.

If my aunt were a food, she'd be
a plump potato.

If my brother was music, he'd be
some senseless beats.

If my girl friend were an animal,
she'd be a stunning fox.

If my teacher were a truck,
she'd be a powerful semi.

Iffy Posters

Make posters of if phrases;

examples are:

If your clock
had legs,
you could
watch time
stand still.

If I were
an open,
warped
window, I
would be
stuck up.

If someone fall into
the potato salad,
you will get
mashed potatoes.

You're Invited

Write an invitation to any sort of an event . . . serious or silly . . . real or imaginary . . . in the present or past or future. Be sure to tell the guests when it starts and ends, what to expect and what to bring.

Invite someone to:

a ladybug hunt

World War III

a cloud walk

a trip to tomorrow

a beheading

a safari

an archaeological dig in Egypt

a wild river raft trip

an alligator hunt

a boomerang throwing contest

totem pole building party

an Indian raid

a tar and feathering

exploration of a haunted house

a slumber party at 112 Ocean Avenue, Amityville, New York

Do you run? walk? jog?

Do you run? Do you jog? These are questions frequently asked today. This activity is a take-off on the yellow pages' slogan, "Let your fingers do the walking." Open your dictionary to the "R" section for "run", or "w" for "walk" or "j" for jog. Time yourself as you go after these words.

Verbs	Nouns	Adjectives
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.
6.	6.	6.
7.	7.	7.
8.	8.	8.
9.	9.	9.

Mad Libs

Mad Libs is a word game that can be used to make learning the parts of speech fun. Mad Libs are short poems, plays, and stories with certain words left out which students fill in with the correct part of speech. Students usually like to make them as funny as they can. Even reluctant writers (and "students of grammar" enjoy these. Mad Libs can be purchased locally from book stores.

Students also enjoy writing their own Mad Libs and having their classmates fill in the blanks.

Mad's Snappy Answers to Stupid Questions

This book presents in cartoon form idiotic questions and gives several zippy answers, the kind we all say, "Wish I would have though of that". It shows people using verbal skills to form witty and often foolish responses to questions.

For example:

Scene: an office with No Smoking signs on the wall.

A man pulls out a cigarette and says to the secretary, "Is it O. K. to smoke?"

She replies, "Why? Are you on fire?"

Bring in a copy of the book, to read several excerpts to them. After they are familar with the style, give them the questions and have them write the snappy answers. You can also reverse the procedure, by giving the answers and having them write the questions.

Games magazine is also a source of writing ideas. Some of the activities we have enjoyed in the past include "Odd Couples" (e. g. Ballpoint and William - Penn), matching activities, and guessing who owns famous, personalized license plates.

Off Limits

Write a description of the experience of eating an ice cream cone without using any of these words:

ice cream

delicious

vanilla

cone

creamy

cold

lick

bite

Personification

1. Youare a bright red sports car, owned by a teenager. Tell about how you are treated and cared for by your owner, and the places you are driven.
2. Imagine you are a computer-controlled space vehicle travelling to Mars. Describe your journey, and explain what happens when you finally reach your destination.
3. Pretend you are a pair of shoes. You are in a store ready to be sold. Tell about the people who try you on, the person who buys you, and your life with the new owner.
4. Describe your life as a guitar, telling who your various owners are, where you go, and what you see.
5. As a "Sports Illustrated" or "Seventeen" or "Mad" magazine in the school library, describe the various types of people who read you, how they hold you and turn your pages, and detail the articles and ads of most interest to the readers.
6. Be your refrigerator or your dining room table at Thanksgiving. What would it say about your family, your guests, and yourself.
7. As your Christmas tree, what would it say about the way you celebrate the holidays?
8. As your stomach, what does it say about the way it is usually treated?

Phobias

Write about your phobia. Here is a list of common phobias to get you thinking (or write about a cure, serious or silly, for a phobia):

acrophobia - fear of heights

agoraphobia - fear of wide-open spaces

ailurophobia - fear of cats

astraphobia - fear of thunder and lightning

bibliophobia - fear of (hate for) books

claustrophobia - fear of small, closed-in spaces

cynophobia - fear of dogs

hydrophobia - fear of water

monophobia - fear of being alone

nyctophobia - fear of the dark

ocholphobia - fear of crowds

ophidiophobia - fear of light

pyrophobia - fear of rife

xenophobia - fear of foreigners or foreign countries

phobophobia - fear of phobias, fear of fear

You may want to invent your own word for a fear you have - workophobia, fear of school, fear of work, fear of riding the school, fear of missing the school bus, fear of being alone.

It Takes Two to Tango

Words, like people, often travel in pairs. Words, like people, are seen together so much that they become a "couple". Write your own couples. Fill in these to get started. How about some team work?

Black and _____

Horse and _____

Tried and _____

Lucille Ball and _____

Romeo and _____

Loud and _____

Trick or _____

Give and _____

Ginger Rodgers and _____

Bat and _____

Cream and _____

Cops and _____

Sweet and _____

Chill a fever, _____

Left and _____

Kiss and _____

Heaven and _____

Table and _____

Pyramid Sentences

Sentences enjoy writing a sentence in pyramid form. Each word of a pyramid must be one letter longer than the previous word. Students should try to build pyramids as tall as possible.

I
am
the
girl
whose
father
manages
business
functions
skillfully,
commendably,
proficiently.

Rally

The "rally" activity develops reading skills and short answers (attention to details). You will need to provide your students with identical maps; direction sheets for Part 1 and Part 2; envelopes for the direction sheets; and a watch for timing the race.

Preparation: Select an interesting destination on the map, the identity of which will be known only to you. Then prepare a set of written directions like the samples below. Use towns, historical sites, and other points of interest as landmarks along the path. After each direction, there should be a "Where are you?" blank to fill in, which will identify the landmark. Divide the directions into two parts; completing Part 1 represents the half-way mark, like a checkpoint in a rally. The idea is for students working in pairs to translate the written directions and to mentally trace the route on the map as quickly as possible, while at the same time correctly filling in the "Where are you?" blanks.

Directions: Explain the activity. Have students pair up and select a team name, such as Porsche, Maserati. As the signal, "Go", they are open the envelope marked Part 1; when they finish Part 1, they are to exchange it for Part 2. The winner is the team that reaches the destination first and has correctly filled in all of the blanks. Clock each team's time at the halfway point and at the finish.

Sample Questions:

1. Find Stanley Drive, which is in the largest city in the state. Go north on this road until you find a memorial to the president assassinated in 1864. Where are you? _____
2. Proceed to Old South Bridge and continue along Route 13 to the junction of Routes 13 and 9. Turn left. Where are you? _____

Note: We had more fun taking one-day or week-end trips, devising rallies and I learned a lot about the state of Colorado.

Reader's Digest

Either go to the library or bring copies of the Reader's Digest into your room. Have students read the different humor sections, such as "Laughter, The Best Medicine" and "Life in These United States" and identify the characteristics of acceptable jokes or stories for the magazine.

Then have them work on their own anecdotes to send to the Reader's Digest. Send to: Reader's Digest, Pleasantville, NY 10570.

For more reluctant readers, have them, the first time, just to select their favorite humorous anecdote and to write it (copy it) and then read it to the rest of the class.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A WINNING ANECDOTE FOR READER'S DIGEST:

1. The humor is clean, spontaneous, and often naive.
2. There is little, if any, sexuality. Reader's Digest's gears itself to all ages, not merely to adults.
3. Subject matter deals with common happenings in everyone's life: going to work, bureaucratic confusion, childhood innocence.

Recipes

Cut cards into receipe cards, with the tabs on the top. After looking at examples of actual recipes and reviewing the measurements, students write recipes for happiness, love, friendship, entertainment, a good week-end, a stimulating class, etc. This makes them really think about the ingredients and the amount of each ingredient needed.

Another Recipe Idea

Look for recipes for unusual dishes or for ones that have unusual names. Leaf loaf. Cloud soup. Airplane sandwiches. Star pudding. Peanutbutter Pie. Wacky Cake. Write the recipes in such a way as a poem format. If really brave, make the item and bring it to class for everyone to share.

Riddles

Students describe an item, in such a way that other students can guess what the object is. For example, I break when dropped. You can see through me. I usually have liquid inside me. I am the shape of a cylinder. I am usually held with tongs above a Bunsen burner. What am I? (a test tube)

Variation: Students write one description of themselves on index cards, with their names on the back. Collect the cards and read one description aloud, with students guessing who wrote it. Students are often surprised to find out what they have in common. Examples would be: I have blud eyes; I have blond hair; I like to ride motorcycles; I play the piano; I own 2o pairs of shoes; I have a good sense of humor; I have long fingernails.

Show Me

Show-me's are plays on words. Here's showing you some show-me's. Then it will be your turn to show your own.

Show me something Ben Franklin scribbled and I'll show you a Yankee Doodle.

Show me a strong man and a flowering bush and I'll show you Samson and de lilac.

Show me a hot dog in a mug and I'll show you Frankenstein.

Show me a dance held by the cast of "Hee-Haw" and I'll show you a cornball.

Show me someone who's dodged a flying dart and I'll show you a person who's missed the point.

Show me a corpse that's used in a magic act and I'll show you an Abra Cadaver.

Show me the first President's dentures and I'll show you the George Washington Bridge.

Show me someone afraid to see "Earthquake" and "The Towering Inferno" and I'll show you a Shake and Bake chicken.

Sit on it

1. Make a list of the different types of chairs. List as many as you can think of, for example, barber chair, high chair, milking stool, piano bench.

2. Determine approximately how much time you spend each day, week sitting and on what kinds of chairs. Do you spend more time sitting during the week than on week-ends?

3. Reverse roles. You be the chair and tell stories about the people who sit on you.

Scavengar Hunt

This activity can have many variations; however, one thing is constant: teacher preparation. This is an ideal way to acquaint students with materials in the room, materials in the library.

Sample questions:

Find a quiz book that has 240 pages.

The author of the seventh-grade grammar book is:

A Little White Lie

Write
a
story
about
a
happening
in
a
way
that
stretches
the
facts.
Do
the
writing
on
adding
machine
tape,
turned
the long
way.

Toponymy (a study of place names)
Writing City and State Sentences

Hide the name of a city or state in the body of a sentence. Here are samples:

Alas! Kathy is here. (Alaska)

New ports were being built in the harbor. (Newport)

"This den very dark," said the Indian. (Denver)

Have you ever tried to buff a low shoe? (Buffalo)

There's a big sale Monday. (Salem)

I saw Rich, Monday. (Richmond)

Today Tony is leaving. (Dayton)

Here are a few more to get you thinking:

1. A chasm is a narrow gorge or giant abyss.
2. Oh, I ought to study, but I'm not in the mood.
3. Did you miss our ice-skating show?
4. Jeremy cut a hole in the tablecloth.
5. Your latest habit exasperates me.
6. When you arrive at the hospital, ask an orderly to direct you to the x-ray room?
7. If you had to color a donkey, what color would you make it?
8. The cinema in Evanston is located on First Street.
9. I finally found the trio wasting time at the water cooler.
10. As it grew dark, he said a hotel was just what they needed.

More toponymy

For this one, you will need an atlas. Select one of the following categories of place-names, or develop a category of your own: colors, nuts, fruits, weather, animals, fish, occupations, presidents. My category is food and I found the following:

Turkey (Texas)
Tea (South Dakota)
Rice (Minnesota)
Ice (Mountain, West Virginia)
Pea (Patch, Delaware)
Coffee (Georgia)
Roll (Arizona)
Raisin (Texas)
Strawberry (Arkansas)
Honey (Lake, California)
Milk (River, Montana)
Napoleon (Ohio)
Potato (Creek, South Dakota)
Bread Loaf (Mountain, Vermont)

Wanted Posters

Obtain copies of FBI wanted posters from either the post office or the police department.

Students are to write the crime sheets, making up a story for each fugitive based on the detailed information in the posters.

Variation: You write the crime sheets and have students try to figure out which one fits which poster.

Variation: Make up "wanted posters" for students in the class and write descriptions for these people. Examples are: wanted for popping gum, wanted for blowing bubbles, wanted for writing on desks, wanted for always turning in assignments on time.

The Way We Were

Write anecdotes or poems or diary entries about your younger days.

Tell about . . .

the worst thing that ever happened to me

the last time I sassed my mother

my first day in school

a day I remember from my early school years

a day I ran away from home

the earliest thing I can remember

What is . . .?

Make posters to answer questions to "What is . . ." questions.

What is a child?

What is a home?

What is beauty?

What is misery?

What is discomfort?

Discomfort is. . .

wearing wet shoes
sitting in a hot or cold classroom
listening to a boring lecture
sleeping on a lumpy mattress
burning your tongue on hot chocolate
having several mosquito bites
stubbing your toe
getting a charley horse in the middle of the night
having a sunburn
having to go to the bathroom and the teacher won't give you a pass

License Plates

Many states permit people to personalize their license plates. Usually the restrictions are between six and eight letters. Design the license plates for yourself, your friends, your family, famous personalities.

E. G. a reader teacher's	U READ
a teacher's	I TEACH

American Bandstand

Many of the popular groups today have catchy names. Match the names of the groups with song titles. You can create either the name of the group or the song -- or both.

E. G. "You are My Sunshine" by Sunstroke

"Lazy Days" by Daydreamer

"You're My One and Only" by Numero Uno

"Sticks and Stones" by Styx and Rolling Stones

"I'm Ape Over You" by the Monkeys

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